

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00
ICAE-00 INRE-00 IO-13 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 HA-05 /080 W
-----059469 181559Z /42

O R 181440Z APR 78
FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6658
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USBERLIN 0904

E O 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV BQG AKB
SUBJ: NICO HUEBNER

REFS: (A) STATE 96906, (B) BONN 6944, (C) BONN 6919, (D) BONN 6677,
(E) USBERLIN 782

SUMMARY: BERLIN MISSIONS HAVE AGREED IN GENERAL TO A
SCENARIO WHICH DOES NOT RPT NOT INCLUDE ALLIED PRESS
STATEMENT ON THE HUEBNER CASE. U.S. MISSION HAS PREPARED
TEXT OF DRAFT RESPONSE TO LORENZ LETTERS AND HAS ALSO
PREPARED DRAFT OF PROTEST TO SOVIETS. WE BELIEVE PROTEST
MUST MAKE, AT LEAST, PASSING REFERENCE TO HUEBNER. WE
HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED COMMENTS FROM BRITISH AND FRENCH
MISSION ON OUR PROPOSED TEXT. HOWEVER, ALL MISSIONS
HAVE AGREED IN PRINCIPLE THAT WE SHOULD PROTEST TO THE
SOVIETS, AND ALL MISSIONS ACCEPT THE NECESSITY OF
RESPONDING TO LORENZ LETTER. WE DOUBT THAT THE
MATTER CAN BE SUCCESSFULLY HANDLED IN A LOW-KEY FASHION
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SINCE LORENZ IS LIKELY TO MAKE RESPONSE PUBLIC AND IS
ALSO LIKELY TO PRAISE US THE STRONGER THE RESPONSE IS
OR TO CRITICIZE US THE WEAKER IT IS. END SUMMARY.

1. ALLIED MISSIONS HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING APPROPRIATE
MANNER IN WHICH TO REACT TO DEVELOPMENTS IN CONNECTION
WITH NICO HUEBNER CASE. IT APPEARS THAT THE BRITISH

REPRESENTATIVE IN THE BONN GROUP HAS GOTTEN AHEAD OF THE DELIBERATION BETWEEN BERLIN MISSIONS AND THAT HIS OWN PROPOSALS IN THE BONN GROUP ARE NOT ENTIRELY IN ACCORD WITH THE BRITISH AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE IN BERLIN. IT HAS BEEN AGREED IN BERLIN THAT WE SHOULD PROTEST TO THE SOVIETS THE VIOLATIONS OF DEMILITARIZATION WHICH THEY PERMIT IN THE SOVIET SECTOR AND THAT PROTEST SHOULD REFER TO HUEBNER. COMMENT: EVEN IF WE DO NOT ASK FOR HUEBNER'S RELEASE, THE HUEBNER INCIDENT IS CLEARLY THE STIMULUS FOR OUR PROTEST. IT WOULD BE DISINGENUOUS OF US TO AVOID HIS NAME ENTIRELY IN OUR PROTEST TO SOVIETS. END COMMENT. IN ADDITION, IT HAS BEEN ACCEPTED BY ALL MISSIONS THAT WE MUST RESPOND TO THE LETTERS FROM THE GESELLSCHAFT FUER MENSCHENRECHTE TO ALLIED COMMANDANTS AND PROBABLY SHOULD ALSO RESPOND TO THE RECENTLY RECEIVED CDU JUNGE UNION LETTERS TO HEADS OF STATE.

2. THE LETTERS. USBER ACCEPTED THE TASK OF PREPARING A FIRST DRAFT. USBER ONLY PREPARED A TEXT FOR THE LORENZ LETTERS, IT BEING UNDERSTOOD THAT ANY RESPONSES WE DECIDED TO SEND TO OTHER ADDRESSEES WOULD BE DRAWN FROM OUR RESPONSES TO LORENZ. IT WAS CONSIDERED FURTHER THAT WHETHER OR NOT THE ALLIES WISHED TO SPEAK PUBLICLY ON THIS MATTER, CAPITALS WOULD NOT WISH US TO SPEAK AT LEAST UNTIL THEY HAD RECEIVED AND PERHAPS NOT CONFIDENTIAL

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UNTIL THEY HAD APPROVED, THE RESPONSES (ON BEHALF OF) FROM HEADS OF STATE TO THE LORENZ LETTER. RECOGNIZING THAT THE RESPONSE TO LORENZ WILL PROBABLY BE MADE PUBLIC BY HIM, USBER IS OF THE VIEW THAT IT IS NOT NECESSARY FOR THE ALLIES IN BERLIN THEMSELVES TO MAKE A PUBLIC PRONOUNCEMENT, BUT THAT WE CAN REGARD OUR RESPONSE TO LORENZ AS HAVING THE EFFECT OF A PUBLIC RESPONSE.

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ICAE-00 INRE-00 IO-13 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 HA-05 /080 W

-----059777 181558Z /42

O R 181440Z APR 78
FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6659
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
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AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 USBERLIN 0904

3. COMMENTS FROM BRITISH AND FRENCH ON OUR PROPOSED TEXT HAVE NOT YET BEEN RECEIVED. OUR PROPOSED TEXT IS IN OUR VIEW "LOW-KEY" IN THAT IT PROPOSES RESPONSE TO LORENZ BE MADE AT BERLIN MINISTER LEVEL AND THAT ONE LETTER BE SENT TO LORENZ BY CHAIRMAN MINISTER IN RESPONSE TO LORENZ' THREE LETTERS. HOWEVER, WE DOUBT THAT ANY RESPONSE ON THIS SUBJECT, IN PARTICULAR ANY RESPONSE TO LORENZ, WILL REMAIN "OW-KEY." SINCE LORENZ IS LIKELY TO DISCUSS THE RESPONSE OPENLY, IF NOT GIVE THE TEXT OF RESPONSE ITSELF TO THE PRESS, WE BELIEVE THAT A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF PUBLICITY WILL BE GENERATED WHATEVER OUR RESPONSE CONTAINS; THAT IS, WE ARE DAMNED (BY THE SOVIET PERHAPS) IF WE DO AND DAMNED (BY BERLINERS) IF WE DO NOT GIVE A STRONG RESPONSE.

4. FYI: TURNING FOR A MOMENT TO TEXT OF PROPOSED PRESS STATEMENT AS SUGGESTED BY BRITISH IN BONN GROUP (PARA 3 OF REFTEL C), TO WHICH WE UNDERSTAND THE FRENCH REPRESENTATIVE HAVE NOT REPEAT NOT AGREED, USBER CONFIDENTIAL

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WOULD POINT OUT WITH RESPECT TO FOURTH SENTENCE OF TEXT THAT THERE IS NO RPT NO DEMILITARIZATION LEGISLATION WHICH HAS BEEN ISSUED BY THE ALLIED KOM-MANDATURA WHICH PROHIBITS INDUCTION IN THE SOVIET SECTOR OF GERMAN RESIDENTS INTO THE GDR VOLKSARMEE. ACCORDINGLY, THE FOURTH SENTENCE OF THE BRITISH TEXT CONTAINS A MISLEADING STATEMENT. END FYI.

5. BERLIN MISSIONS WILL WORK WITH DELIBERATE SPEED TO PREPARE AGREED DRAFTS OF SOVIET PROTEST AND RESPONSE TO LORENZ, ET AL. FOR CONSIDERATION BY BONN GROUP. ONCE BONN GROUP HAS THESE TEXTS WE WOULD URGE SPEEDIEST POSSIBLE CONSIDERATION OF TEXT OF PROTEST TO THE SOVIETS, IT BEING UNDERSTOOD THAT APPROVAL OF RESPONSE TO

LORENZ MAY TAKE A LITTLE LONGER SINCE CAPITALS MAY WISH
TO REFER MATTER FOR APPROVAL TO STAFFS (E.G. WHITE
HOUSE) OF PRESIDENTS OR PRIME MINISTER.GEORGE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PERSONNEL, CONSCRIPTION, ALLIANCE, TRIALS, COURT PROCEEDINGS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978USBERL00904
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780165-1186
Format: TEL
From: USBERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780442/aaaabjwf.tel
Line Count: 173
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 259d8bab-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 96906, 78 BONN 6944, 78 BONN 6919, 78 BONN 6677, 78 USBERLIN 782
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2925997
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NICO HUEBNER
TAGS: PGOV, US, BQG, AKB, (HUEBNER, NICO)
To: STATE BONN
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/259d8bab-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014